

To The Chairman and Members of the
Aminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen

In presenting to you the Annual Report of the Aminster Rural District for 1904, I have to congratulate the Council on the very healthy condition of the District, with the exception of one Parish, during the year -

The number of births registered was 265, thirteen less than last year, an average of 21.7. The average for the previous ten years being 23.36, and for Rural England & Wales last year 26.8. The vital statistics for England and Wales for 1904 shew that the declining birth rate which has been going on for many years past still continues.

The Deaths numbered 158, one more than last year, - a small average 12.9, well under the rate for Rural England and Wales which is 15.3. - Twentyone infants under one year of age died, a rate of 79.2 per thousand births registered. This is slightly higher than last year, but much better than Rural England & Wales which last year had a rate of 125 -

I received notifications of 39 cases of infectious disease, in 1903 there were 51 - Twentyfive of these cases occurred in Aminster, of which 22 were Diphtheria - the rest of the District had only 14 cases -

Of the seven ordinary Zymotic diseases, there were four deaths in the District, one from Whooping Cough and three from Diphtheria & membranous Croup. The number of Deaths from Cancer has fallen from 20 in 1903 to 13 last year, but the number due to Phthisis or Consumption has risen from 10 to 15.

Aminster.

Many new cottages were built during the year and occupied. No case of overcrowding has been brought to my notice. The water supply during the
year.

year has been constant and good - Nothing has been done to the sewerage of the Town, to which I have in previous reports asked your attention. There were four cases of infectious disease notified in this District -

Almouth

As I have above stated 22 cases of Diphtheria occurred in this village during the year. The first cases were notified on April 5th and the disease continued till May 17th, when it apparently ceased. On December 16th it re-appeared and has continued ever since - There were two fatal cases. - This village according to Dr. St. George Thivart's Report in 1899 contains "some of the worst cottage dwellings in the whole of the Rural District," and they have not been improved since. There are "back to back" cottages, others are partly built "back to earth" -

Although a good water supply could easily be obtained the residents in the lower part of the village have to come to the upper end for their water, a distance I think of about 400 yards, and under the circumstances not in my opinion a reasonable distance, as the water (which is of excellent quality) could be conveyed to them without any difficulty. The provision of accommodation in the village is not sufficient. The stream flowing through the village instead of being a benefit is quite the reverse. During one of my visits looking into it for a few moments I saw sheep's excreta, remains of fish, faecal matter, and all sorts of filth and rubbish floating down in it. From one of the largest houses in the street the pipe from the W.C. empties direct into it. - The villagers are in the habit of emptying their slops into it and also washing their culinary articles in it. I do not know whose duty it is to clean it out, but it should be periodically cleansed.

I was informed that some dead pigs were seen lying in it - At Stidecombe dairy close to the village, where there has been some cases of Diphtheria, the privy in the garden has an open cess pit behind it, into this pit some drains from the gardens at Stidecombe House empties, the contents are then carried under some outhouses into the yard and flow down in front of the dairy and farmhouses, causing a nuisance and a danger to health. The drain from Stidecombe House discharges its contents by the side of the roadway leading to the farmhouse, and when the ditch is blocked flows over the road. These insanitary conditions should be remedied -

Bolton

The sewerage of this town, to which I have repeatedly invited your attention, still remains in the same unsatisfactory condition - Excluding Asmuth only four cases of infectious disease were notified from this District

Dalwood.

Better privy accommodation ought to be provided for the houses in this village -

Hawthchurch.

It has been stated to the Council that the Water supply of this village is sufficient, but I do not consider one pump at the lower end of the village, sufficient to supply it, containing as it does two public houses and two bakehouses.

Uphynel.

There were 3 cases of Diphtheria in some bungalow buildings in this Parish, the pipes to the cess tank were not trapped, the buildings have since been burnt down

Thembury

Hewalt.

The water supply here is good, one fatal case of Diphtheria occurred in the Parish but otherwise it has been free from infectious disease.

The Sanitary conditions of the other parishes are fairly good.

Your Inspector of nuisances disinfected the houses when requisite -

I have inspected the factories and found the sanitary arrangements in good order

The Tables required by the Local Government Board are appended

I am Gentlemen
Your Obedient Servant
Wm L Ingram

M. C. H. Afimust Rural District

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Febry 14th 1905.